

From: Bill McAuley On Behalf Of PSIO-Intelligence

Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:10 AM

To: Amanda Barros <Amanda.Barros@gov.ab.ca>; Andrew Buffin <Andrew.Buffin@gov.ab.ca>; Bill McAuley <bill.mcauley@gov.ab.ca>; Brandy Cox <brandy.cox@gov.ab.ca>; Catherine Williams <catherine.williams@gov.ab.ca>; Coleen Volk <Coleen.Volk@gov.ab.ca>; Dennis Cooley <Dennis.Cooley@gov.ab.ca>; Dwayne Lakusta <Dwayne.Lakusta@gov.ab.ca>; Elliott Houle <Elliott.Houle@gov.ab.ca>; Farooq Sheikh <Farooq.Sheikh@gov.ab.ca>; Frank Bosscha <Frank.Bosscha@gov.ab.ca>; Janet Maceachern <Janet.Maceachern@gov.ab.ca>; Jenn Anderson <Jenn.Anderson@gov.ab.ca>; Kate White <Kate.White@gov.ab.ca>; Leah Sheffield <Leah.Sheffield@gov.ab.ca>; Marlin Degrand <Marlin.Degrand@gov.ab.ca>; Pam Livingston <Pam.Livingston@gov.ab.ca>; Paul Wynnyk <Paul.Wynnyk@gov.ab.ca>; Peter Lemieux <peter.lemieux@gov.ab.ca>; PSIO-Intelligence <PSIO-Intelligence@gov.ab.ca>; Rae-Ann Lajeunesse <rae-ann.lajeunesse@gov.ab.ca>; Ranjit Tharmalingam <Ranjit.Tharmalingam@gov.ab.ca>; Ray Gilmour <Ray.Gilmour@gov.ab.ca>; Riley Braun <Riley.Braun@gov.ab.ca>; Ryan Hastman <ryan.hastman@gov.ab.ca>; Shannon Marchand <shannon.marchand@gov.ab.ca>; Tara Jago <Tara.Jago@gov.ab.ca>

Subject: PSIO SITREP UPDATE #21 – 15 Feb 2022 – Freedom Convoy Solidarity Activity

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ONLY: SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS SITUATION DEVELOPS. INFORMATION MAY BE BASED ON UNCONFIRMED REPORTING.

UPDATE #21

DATE/TIME: February 15, 2022 @ 11:10 hrs

PURPOSE: To provide aggregated situational awareness regarding “Freedom Convoy” solidarity activity impacting Alberta.

BACKGROUND: No change.

CURRENT STATUS:

Coutts Border Crossing & Milk River:

- TRANS reports that CBSA will be sending out a Border Alert and tweets that COUTTS suspension of operations will lift at 11:00 hrs 15 Feb.
- As of 10:36 hrs 15 Feb, AFRED officials report:
 - North and south bound lanes at COUTTS are clear to the POE.
 - CBSA indicate they are waiting for notification that the COUTTS POE can open for processing of commercial traffic. For now, inspected loads will continue to be referred to Del Bonita for commercial entry until further notification is provided.
- As of 09:45 hrs 15 Feb, social media video indicated participants making preparations to depart COUTTS area at 10:00 hrs.
- As of 09:00 hrs 15 Feb, RCMP/SHP report:
 - Overnight (14/15 Feb) remained quiet with participants slowly packing up and leaving.
 - Participants have continued to leave the various areas throughout the morning of 15 Feb.

- Plans for enforcement action/arrests at Check Point 10 have been put on hold as there appears to be voluntary compliance.
- RCMP will continue to monitor Check Point 10 and may begin to sweep into the area should protesters not move as they had indicated.
- SMUGGLERS SALOON (COUTTS): 11 commercial trucks , 40 passenger vehicles, 17 farm tractors and 7 large trailers.
- CP 10: 4 commercial trucks, 2 farm tractors, 46 RVs, and 75 passenger vehicles
- No enforcement was recorded over night.
- The border is open to both north and south bound traffic but CBSA is restricting northbound traffic at this point as they prepare their operations.
- As of 16:36 hrs 14 Feb, social media posted by blockade participant indicated intent within COUTTS group to wrap up the protest at the Alberta border and go home Tuesday morning.
- Protester livestream of Check Point 10 area ceased as of 23:25 hrs 14 Feb.
- As of 17:00 hrs 14 Feb, RCMP/SHP reported:
 - Once the arrest of the 13 individuals became known and the cache of weapons was announced, the tide of opinion among many of the blockade participants changed as the gravity of what was going on behind the scenes.
 - Numerous participants indicated they would be leaving and began negotiations with the RCMP to mitigate their legal standings.
 - By 16:00 hrs there was video feed of participants starting to tear down tents and start to leave the area.

Alberta Legislature / McDougall Centre

- Social media organizing for a 'Throne Speech Convoy' to the LEGISLATURE on Tue 22 Feb continues. Organizers intend to arrive at 12:00 and confront MLAs and staffers "as they walk into the assembly."

City of Edmonton & Environs

- No additional updates at this time.

City of Calgary & Environs

- On Tue 15 Feb, there is a planned protest at CALGARY REMAND CENTRE calling for the release of Artur PAWLOWSKI. [CPS anticipate approx 100 people to attend. Similar protests have been occurring for the previous 6 days, but organizers are calling for supporters to attend Remand and Canadian Government offices on 15 Feb. There is no current and reliable intelligence to indicate that any problems are anticipated.]

Regional Municipalities / Rural

- No additional updates at this time.

Ottawa "Freedom Convoy 2022"

- Media reporting that Ottawa Police Service Chief Peter SLOLY has resigned.

Other Provinces / National

- Federal officials are scheduled to provide update on border measures at 11:00 hrs.

- EMERSON, MB BORDER CROSSING – as of 11:14 CST, [CBSA report](#) Commercial Flow at EMERSON, MB/PEMBINA, ND remains temporarily closed.
- On Mon 14 Feb, the federal government announced that it was implementing the *Emergencies Act* in response to the occupation of Ottawa and the border blockades. As part of the announcement, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Finance Freeland announced that part of the measures being implemented would be financial: this is about “following the money”. There were four main actions that Freeland outlined: bringing crowdfunding platforms (including those dealing in cryptocurrencies) under Canada’s anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing legislation (PCMLFTA) as reporting entities, authorized banks to cease the provision of financial services to protesters, giving banks the ability to freeze and seize funds affiliated with the protest, and expanding information sharing between federal government institutions and banks and other financial service providers.

International

- Authorities in STRASBOURG, FRANCE have banned “freedom convoys” from 14 Feb 2022 to 17 Feb 2022 in anticipation of potential demonstrations during the EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT plenary session. The ban was enacted following reports that several convoys are planning to reach STRASBOURG, Media reporting noted that the demonstrators were possibly planning to present their demands to EUROPEAN UNION (EU) institutions in the STRASBOURG area.
- In an interview with CBC published on 15 Feb, a US lawmaker stated that the blockade at the AMBASSADOR BRIDGE connecting ONTARIO to MICHIGAN has led to questions over relying on imports from Canada. Similar comments have been made by another lawmaker from the northern US state. The article highlights the potential long-term damage the blockades have caused to the Canada-US economic relationship and to Canadian companies that export to the US market, particularly at a time when the US is looking to strengthen its supply chains and domestic industrial base.
- Media reporting indicates that protests inspired by the Canadian “freedom convoy” continue in both CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA and WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND.

MINISTRY UPDATES:

Justice & Solicitor General (JSG):

- No change.

Transportation (TRANS):

- No change.

Municipal Affairs:

- No change.

Jobs, Economy, and Innovation (JEI):

- No change.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Economic Development (AFRED):

- The Canadian Produce Marketing Association:

- There has been some winding down, but others are not budging from the blockades, so still a lot of navigation going on to cross at alternate crossings.
 - Southbound delays then trigger north bound scheduling delays for the returning loads.
 - This is creating challenges on top of already existing delays by about 48-72 hours. This adds increased costs. CA to AB went from \$6,000 to \$11,000 per trailer box load.
- Interprovincial being affected for trucking as a result:
 - Many are looking at shipping empty trucks to improve speed and help with the perishability issue.
 - Empty load between SK to AB costing \$3200
 - East to West there is a 10% surcharge increase on top of the fuel costs adding layers of increase costs.
- Increased volumes of waste and decreased quality especially for salads, peppers and squash.

ASSESSMENT & STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS:

- Recent reporting regarding the arrests of 13 individuals and the seizure of weapons in association with the Coutts blockade has allegedly led to its leadership choosing to breakdown the blockade beginning at 10:00hrs on 15 Feb 2022. Social media discourse indicates that the association with potentially violent elements created an untenable situation for those that sought to present the blockade as a peaceful and "family friendly" protest movement that involved children.
- There remain ongoing claims that the arrests and weapon seizures have been unfairly associated with the protestors and are being used to smear the actions of those engaged in peaceful demonstration. However, there does appear to be acknowledgement that regardless of the validity of the association, it will not favour the protestors and will possibly lead to further escalation of law enforcement efforts.
- It is uncertain if all those in attendance at the blockade will depart, as some have indicated their intention to remain steadfast and are refusing to leave.
- It is unclear if the decision to breakdown the COUTTS convoy will also lead to the departure of protestors from the MILK RIVER blockade - though it is likely that a significant number will no longer see value in maintaining their support if the core blockade has surrendered its position. [Current MILK RIVER activity appears to indicate general intent to disperse]
- Progressive breakdowns of well-established and high profile blockades in COUTTS, MILK RIVER, EMERSON, WINDSOR and others may have a dampening effect on the willingness of others to engage in supportive activities. There is some sentiment amongst online discourse that the intended messages have been sent, and it's time to leave.

FORECAST:

- Continuing to assess longer term ramifications throughout Alberta of apparent departures from COUTTS and impact of the invocation of the *Emergencies Act*.

PREPARED BY: Intelligence Bureau, Provincial Security & Intelligence Office (PSIO)

DISTRIBUTION:

GOA: EXEC: DM//COS//PO COS//PO Issues Manager | JSG: MINO COS//DM//ADSG//COS//ADM PSD//ED
LEOB//ED PSIO//ED Sheriffs//DIR EM//DIR Int Bureau | TRANS: DM//ADM Planning, Procurement &
Tech Stds | MA: DM | Health: DM | JEI: DM//ED Industry & Regional Rel. | AFRED: DM//ED Food Safety
RCMP: KDEOC//KDCAS

CONTACT: PSIO-Intelligence@gov.ab.ca

Classification: Protected A